Among a more or less purely utilitarian class in Belfast he stood out prominently as a broad-minded man of wide sympathies, anxious to popularize knowledge, and always ready to give his time and money for the promotion of Natural Science.—R. M. B.

XXIII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 212.]

34. '*Avicultural Magazine.*'

[Avicultural Magazine. The Journal of the Avicultural Society. New Series. Vol. iv. No. 2. December 1905.]

The main article in this number is that on the Regent Bird (*Sericulus melinus*) by Mr. R. Phillipps, in which he gives details of the successful hatching of two young birds, and discusses the question of the possible polygamy of the male. He also makes the important correction that the bowers which he formerly attributed to males are constructed by females, and that the males do not make two kinds of bowers. Mrs. Howard Williams writes on the nesting of *Munia pectoralis*, Mr. Teschemaker on that of the Green Avaduvat.

35. *Dresser's* '*Eggs of the Birds of Europe.*'

[Eggs of the Birds of Europe, including all the Species inhabiting the Western Palæarctic Area. By H. E. Dresser. Pt. II. London: December 1905. 4to. Pp. 33–68; 5 pls.]

The second part of Mr. Dresser's work on European Oology (see above, p. 192) has now been published, and contains his account of the Vultures, the Kites, the Honey-Buzzard, nine species of *Phylloscopus*, eight of *Hypolais*, and two of *Aëdon*. The eggs figured are those of *Vultur monachus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Gypaëtus barbatus*, *Milvus ictinus*, *M. ægyptius*, the Phylloscopinæ (*Regulus*, *Phylloscopus*, *Hypolais*), and *Aëdon*.

Mr. Dresser's knowledge of the distribution of species is a great feature in the letterpress, while the debt under which he lies to Mr. Zarudny is evident in the case of many

of the Eastern forms. We find little to add to the information given, except that the Fire-crested Wren breeds as early as April in Southern France, and that the nest of the Chiffchaff is much more commonly found in bushes and low copse-wood in England than the author supposes. The plates are good examples of the three-colour process, though the redder tint of the Fire-crested Wren's eggs, as opposed to those of the Golden-crested, is not sufficiently pronounced.

36. *Dubois on the Birds of the Congo State.*

[Remarques sur l'ornithologie de l'État Indépendant du Congo, suivies d'une liste des espèces recueillis jusqu'ici dans cet État. Par le Dr. Alph. Dubois. Ann. du Musée du Congo, tome i. fasc. 1. Bruxelles : Spineux et Cie., 1905. Large 4to. 36 pp.; 12 pls.]

The Museum of the Congo Free State, housed at Tervueren, near Brussels, for the present, contains the collections in various branches of Natural History formed by the officials of that State in various parts of its extensive area. In this memoir M. Alphonse Dubois, Conservator of the Royal Museum of Natural History of Belgium, gives us an account of some of the new or lately described species of birds of the Congo, accompanied by coloured illustrations, and also by a complete list of the birds of Congo-land of which specimens have reached the Museums of Tervueren and Brussels.

The species described for the first time are *Barbatula rubrigularis* (from Katanga), *Ispidina leopoldi* (Lake Leopold), *Pseudospermestes* (gen. nov.) *goossensi*, and *Francolinus nahani* (Popoie).

The species figured are *Barbatula rubrigularis*, *Pachycoccyx validus*, *Turacus schutti*, *T. emini*, *T. sharpei*, *Bycanistes leucopygius*, *Lophoceros granti*, *Ispidina leopoldi*, *Terpsiphone ignea*, *T. speciosa*, *T. melanura*, *Pseudochelidon eurystomina*, *Melanopteryx weynsi*, *Francolinus nahani*, *Huhua leucosticta*, and *Strix cabræ*. The list of Congo species contains 483 names, for each of which the locality is given. The rare and curious form *Pseudochelidon* is from the district of Ituri, which is far away from Gaboon, the *patria* assigned to

it by Hartlaub—its original describer. But we know that the localities of the "*Maison Verreaux*," from which Hartlaub received his specimen, are not always to be relied upon.

We thank M. Dubois for this valuable contribution to the Ethiopian Avifauna, but, as he himself admits, our knowledge of the birds of this vast tract of land is still quite in its infancy.

37. *Hauer, Soos, and Csörgey on the Rook.*

[Die landwirthschaftliche Bedeutung der Saatkrähe. Reprinted from Aquila, xi. (1904), pp. 353–359, with two maps and a table.]

This memoir consists of three articles, in Hungarian and German, on the old question of the utility of the Rook, written for the Hungarian Central Ornithological Office at the instigation of Herr Otto Herman, who, in his Preface, emphasizes the need of checking laboratory work by field-observations. Herr B. Hauer opens the discussion with an account of a full year's investigation conducted on his estate at Kisharta during 1902, when he examined the contents of the stomachs of a large number of birds. His conclusion is that the Rook is a true friend to the farmer; it may do a little harm in spring and autumn, but this is far outweighed by the destruction of worms, insects, and grubs injurious to the crops. Moreover, the grain found in the stomach may often be obtained from animals' droppings or stack-refuse, as is invariably the case in winter. Herr L. Soos, after premising that observers vary greatly in accuracy, and that returns from districts only a few miles apart often acquit or condemn the Rook *in toto*, comes to the same conclusion as Herr Hauer, and elaborates the views held in different parts of the country, with the aid of an explanatory map. He thinks, however, that damage may be done to maize, especially in the south. Herr T. Csörgey is even more emphatic as to the necessity of obtaining and tabulating information during every month of the year. He advocates the use of circulars on which the names of observers, dates, and other particulars are to be carefully recorded.

38. *Herman on Sight in Birds.*

[Vom Blick des Vogels. Von Otto Herman. Aquila, xi. (1904), pp. 360–368. (Written in Hungarian and German.)]

Discussions having arisen as to the power of sight in birds, Herr Herman has published a contribution to our knowledge of the subject, in which he draws his conclusions from Crows, Raptorial birds, Shrikes, Terns, and so forth. The range of sight was found to vary from two to twenty-five metres, or a much greater distance in the case of Vultures, but no absolute conclusions should be drawn from the cases mentioned without a prolonged enquiry.

39. *Herman and Csiki on the Food of Birds.*

[Von der Nahrung der Vögel. Zwei Abhandlungen.—I. Nahrung der Vögel. Von Otto Herman. II. Positive Daten über die Nahrung unserer Vögel. Von E. Csiki. Reprinted from Aquila, xi. (1904), pp. 257–269. (Written in Hungarian and German.)]

At the Third Ornithological Congress, held at Paris in 1900, the Section of Economic Ornithology and Bird-preservation reported in favour of urging all countries and even their governments to take up seriously the subject of the utility or harmfulness of birds, as being of the greatest economic importance. It was urged that enquiries should be instituted on regular business lines, that migratory and non-migratory species alike should be observed during every month of the year and for several years in succession, that the contents of their stomachs should be carefully noted, and lists prepared of their action towards the farmer's crops. The authors are proud to say that Hungary is in the van of the movement, and that other countries are following, though Britain has not as yet announced its adhesion; at the same time they wish to advance with caution, while never losing sight of their goal. The second article gives a detailed account of the examination of a considerable number of species.

40. *'Irish Naturalist.'*

[The Irish Naturalist. A Monthly Journal of General Irish Natural History. Vol. xiv. Nos. 1–12 (1905). Eason & Sons, Dublin.]

Among the ornithological articles in this journal may

be noticed Mr. Alexander Williams's record (p. 71) of the partiality for ripe oats shown by a large flock of Herring-Gulls on the Kerry coast. That Gulls in captivity could exist upon grain was, of course, known from the experiments of John Hunter, but this predilection for ripe grain in a place where animal food was, presumably, plentiful seems somewhat novel. Mr. Robert Warren mentions the acquisition of an example of the Tree-Sparrow from Belmullet, Co. Mayo; it is the first time that this species has been met with on the western side of Ireland since its identification by Mr. H. M. Wallis, in 1886, on Arranmore Island, off Donegal. Mr. R. J. Ussher contributes an interesting paper on the birds of the Connaught loughs, where the Marsh-Harrier may still be seen. Numerous records of Quails indicate that this migrant is returning to Ireland, and breeding there in larger numbers than of late years. The most important novelty is the well-authenticated breeding of the Common Scoter in Ireland; a discovery due to the watchfulness and patience of Major Herbert Trevelyan, and originally announced by him in 'The Field.' On pp. 201–204 is an interesting notice by Mr. Edward Williams (whose recent death is a great loss to Irish zoology) on the occurrences of the Greenland and the Iceland Falcons in Ireland during the spring of 1905 in unusual numbers. The former species was quite abundant, and since the publication of the instances mentioned above others have been recorded. That Corncrakes should be met with in winter is not very unusual, but that an example should have attracted attention to its detriment by "craking" on the 31st of January, 1905, deserves notice. The chronicler, Mr. Robert Patterson, remarks on this instance, and on another Corncrake seen running across the road near Belfast on the 19th of February, that "it will be noted that neither of these birds was hibernating"; and if our opinion afford any satisfaction we heartily agree that Crakes which "crake" and Crakes which run are not in that state of torpor which is associated with "hibernation" on this side of the Irish Sea — H. S.

41. *Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union.*

[The Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union. Vol. i. No. 2. December 1905.]

We have now the pleasure of announcing the issue of the *second* number of the Journal of our sister Union in South Africa (*cf.* 'The Ibis,' 1905, p. 635), which is edited by Mr. A. Haagner with the assistance of an editorial Committee. The principal articles are by Mr. James G. Brown on the water-birds of Zwaartkops River, near Port Elizabeth, by Mr. Haagner on the birds of the vicinity of Modderfontein, Transvaal, and by Mr. A. Duncan on the difficult question of the seasonal changes of plumage in the Bishop-Birds (*Pyromelana*). Three good photographic plates prepared by Mr. R. H. Ivy, of Grahamstown, represent *Anthropoides paradisea*, *Strix capensis*, and the Knysna Plaintain-eater (*Turacus corythaix*) with its nest and eggs. Other notes and notices follow.

42. *Kelsall and Munn on the Birds of Hampshire.*

[The Birds of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. By the Rev. J. E. Kelsall, M.A., and Philip W. Munn. London, 1905. 8vo. Pp. i–xliv, 1–371; 19 illustrations and map. Price 15*s.* net.]

This volume supplies a long-felt want. The neighbouring counties of Wilts and Dorset have each had their ornithological chronicler, but Hampshire birds have as yet only been known from lists in general histories, or discussed from the point of view of separate districts. In one sense few counties have been more fortunate, as from the time of Gilbert White —not to mention Christopher Merrett—to the present day, Hampshire has been a favourite hunting-ground for ornithologists, while the New Forest alone sufficiently accounts for their sustained interest in the county. Still there was ample room for a book which should weave into one the various scattered threads of literature, and such a volume now lies before us, with the accompaniment of a full bibliography, and some account of the former authors who have written on Hampshire birds. Mr. Kelsall, one of the joint authors, himself published an annotated list of species

in the 'Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club' for 1898, from which this volume may be considered to have developed, with the aid of Mr. Munn. Both our fellow-members are resident in the county, and are therefore well qualified for the work which they have undertaken. Naturally they have nothing very new to tell us of so well-trodden an area, but the letterpress will be found to contain many interesting records of former years, and notes on the present status of the species.

The total number of "Hampshire Birds" recorded is 294, besides those which have been introduced, of which the Wild Turkey is the most remarkable. A list of the birds of Selborne is given separately, and an account of the "Protection" afforded to birds in the county is added to the Introduction.

43. *Mascha on the Structure of Wing-feathers.*

[The Structure of Wing-feathers. By Dr. E. Mascha. Smiths. Misc. Coll. iii. pp. 1–30 (1905).]

This is an elaborate memoir on the structure of the wing-feathers of birds, prepared by Dr. Mascha under the superintendence of Prof. R. v. Lendenfeld, of Prague. It has been translated from the German original, which is to be published in the 'Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Zoologie.' The microscopical structure of the wing-feathers is fully described and illustrated by a series of 16 well-drawn plates. The conclusions arrived at are set out in a summary of results. We observe that the phraseology of Nitzsch's 'Pterylographie' is not adhered to, and that the English translation of his standard work on this subject is not mentioned in the List of authorities.

44. *Miller on Birds from Sinaloa, Mexico.*

[List of Birds collected in Southern Sinaloa, Mexico, by J. H. Batty during 1903–4. By W. D. Miller. Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. xxi. p. 339 (1905).]

This is an account of a large collection made by Mr. J. H. Batty in the southern part of the Mexican Province of Sinaloa in 1903–4, with short but apposite field-notes by the collector. The collection contains 1164 specimens,

which are referred to 160 species. Of many of them large series were obtained, *e. g.* 129 of *Lophortyx douglasi*, 90 of *Cassiculus melanicterus*, and 74 of *Icterus pustulatus*. The author appears to be a full-fledged Trinomialist, most of his species having three names. Two new subspecies, designated *Amazona albifrons nana* and *Amazilis beryllina viola*, are apparently based upon somewhat slender characters. When Ornithologists use such terms as "*Amiophila*" and "*Tangavius*" some reference should be given to enable their "less advanced" brethren to trace the origin of the names. They are not to be found—even in the 'Check-list,' so far as we know.

45. *New York Zoological Society's Report.*

[Ninth Annual Report of the New York Zoological Society (for 1904). New York, 1905. 8vo. Pp. 1–271; 75 illustrations.]

Notable events in the history of this Society are the approaching or actual completion of the large new House for small birds, of the Ostrich—or rather Ratites'—House, and of the Aviary for Pheasants and Doves, which will contain an exceptional number of species of many kinds. Apart from the announcement of these additions, we are informed in this Report of the progress of game-protection, of the various Orders of birds in the Park, of the exhibition of wall-cases containing anatomical specimens, nests, and eggs, and of course of much concerning other classes of living creatures. The Curator of Birds, Mr. C. W. Beebe, is the author of an article entitled "The Ostriches and their Allies," which is furnished with no less than seventeen illustrations, and discusses the group from all points of view. Apparently, however, he has not discovered that the African Ostrich is a strict monogamist.

46. *Nordenskjöld on Antarctic Birds.*

[Antarctica; or, Two Years amongst the Ice of the South Pole. By Dr. N. Otto Nordenskjöld and Dr. Joh. Gunnar Andersson. London: Hurst & Blackett, Ltd., 1905. 1 vol., 8vo.]

This well-written account of the remarkable adventures

of the Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1901–3 will be read with pleasure by all our friends who are interested in Polar exploration. After the loss of the 'Antarctic' and the dispersal of its crew into three separate winter-quarters, in which the greatest hardships were encountered, the whole party was almost miraculously re-united and brought back safely by the exertions of the Argentine Government. But what induces us to bring the work to the notice of the readers of 'The Ibis' is the occurrence of numerous notices and illustrations of Penguins and other Antarctic birds throughout the narrative. Those relating to the Penguins and their strange ways (see pp. 48, 51, 52, 57, 266, 312, 413, 498, 561) are many and of special interest, but Skuas and Cormorants also receive due attention. The Penguins now living in the South Shetlands and adjacent lands visited by the Expedition are of four kinds, of which the three species of *Pygoscelis*—*P. adeliæ*, *P. antarctica*, and *P. papua*—appear to exist in almost incredible numbers, while the Emperor (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) is an occasional straggler. But a remarkable discovery was made in Seymour Island of the fossil remains of an extinct bird of this family "considerably larger than the largest form now living," *i.e.* the Emperor. There is a capital drawing by Mr. E. Lange (p. 452) of a Giant Petrel killing a young Penguin while the unfortunate parents look on with horror and dismay. Our ornithological friends will be delighted with this volume.

47. *Oberholser on the Names of certain Genera of Birds.*

[Notes on the Nomenclature of certain Genera of Birds. By Harry C. Oberholser. Smiths. Misc. Coll. vol. iii. pp. 59–68 (1905).]

Mr. Oberholser proposes to change the seventeen generic names of birds given in the first column of the subjoined list, and to employ in their places the names given in the second column :—

Name to be rejected.	Name to be substituted.
1. *Bellona* Muls. & Verr.	*Orthorhynchus* Lac.
2. *Dromaeus* Vieill.	*Dromoceius* Vieill.
3. *Hydrornis* Milne-Edw.	*Dyspetornis* (nom. nov.).
4. *Naenia* Boie	*Inca* Jard.
5. *Gnathositta* Cab.	*Ognorhynchus* Gray.
6. *Dasyptilus* Wagl.	*Psittricas* Less.
7. *Nanodes* Vig. et Horsf.	*Euphema* Wagl.
8. *Dendrornis* Eyton	*Xiphorhynchus* Sw.
9. *Xiphorhynchus* Sw.	*Xiphornis* (nom. nov.).
10. *Sharpia* Boc.	*Notiospiza* (nom. nov.).
11. *Malacopteron* Eyt.	*Horizillas* (nom. nov.).
12. *Hedymela* Sund.	*Ficedula* Briss.
13. *Chenorhamphus* Oust.	*Conopotheras* (nom. nov.).
14. *Helminthophila* Ridgw.	*Vermivora* Sw.
15. *Tiaris* Sw.	*Charitospiza* (nom. nov.).
16. *Coturniculus* Bp.	*Ammodramus* Sw.
17. *Ammodramus* Sw.	*Ammospiza* (nom. nov.).

In case any of our readers should wish to follow Mr. Oberholser's lead and adopt the suggested alterations, we would ask them to study carefully the reasons given for making the changes, which, in our opinion, are not always sufficient. For instance, "*Bellona*" is rejected because it has been previously used for an "ornithicnite." But an "ornithicnite," if we are not mistaken, is a fossil footprint of a bird, not a bird itself, and there is no rule that a fossil footprint and a bird may not be called by the same name.

It is proposed to remove the name *Xiphorhynchus* of Swainson to the group usually called *Dendrornis*, because, although Swainson expressly states that *X. procurvus* is the type of his genus (Zool. Journ. iii. p. 354), he "defeated his purpose by allowing the previous publication of *Xiphorhynchus* in combination with the name of a species of another group." We cannot subscribe to this doctrine, and we maintain that *X. procurvus* is the true type of *Xiphorhynchus*, as stated explicitly by the author when he founded the genus and defined it. Were Mr. Oberholser's view adopted, we should have to change the names of about 50 species of Dendrocolaptidæ, and produce indescribable

confusion. But our "Priority-hunters" are regardless of consequences when they think that they can upset an established name. The same fallacy prevails in the case of "*Tiaris*," which, according to our view, need not be changed to "*Charitospiza*." Nor does *Tiaris ornata* require the new specific name which Mr. Oberholser has invented for it, because *Fringilla ornata* of Vieillot belongs to quite a different genus from *Fringilla ornata* Wied. We prefer the familiar name *Tiaris ornata* to the new *Charitospiza eucosma*, and shall continue to use it in spite of what Mr. Oberholser and Dr. Richmond (see 'Auk,' xix. p. 87) may say! Nor can we agree to give up *Malacopteron* because *Malacopterus* has been used in Entomology. They are not the same word, and their continued use in two different classes of animals cannot lead to any confusion. Who would like to call our Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula ficedula ficedula*, as Mr. Oberholser suggests? Not the Editors of 'The Ibis,' we are sure, nor many of its readers, we suspect. We prefer to stick to the good old Linnean name *Muscicapa atricapilla*. In the first place, many Ornithologists (Dr. Hartert, for one) do not allow the validity of Brisson's genera. In the second place, it is quite uncertain what Brisson's "Bec-figue" (the type of his genus *Ficedula*) was, and the same may be said of Linnæus's *Muscicapa ficedula*. But about *Muscicapa atricapilla* there is no uncertainty. The name has been in universal use since the foundation of the Binomial System, and cannot, in our opinion, be improved upon.

48. *Patterson on the Fauna of East Norfolk.*

[Nature in Eastern Norfolk. By A. H. Patterson. London, 1905. 8vo. Pp. 1–352; 12 col. pls. and map. Price 6*s*.]

The author of 'Notes of an East Coast Naturalist' sends us another small volume on the fauna of the Yarmouth district, which is not only valuable for the information it gives of the present effect of the Protection of Birds on Breydon Water and its vicinity, but also for the accounts of various worthies whose names we so often hear mentioned in connexion with the Ornithology of Norfolk. Beginning

with an autobiography, the author passes to general observations on the fauna, which contain much of interest with regard to the comparative abundance of species, migration (map), occurrence of varieties, wild-fowling, the sole remaining local duck-decoy (at Fritton), works on the avifauna of the district, and the like. This is followed by an annotated catalogue of the mammals, birds, fishes, reptiles, amphibians, stalk-eyed crustaceans, and mollusks of Eastern Norfolk. We can heartily recommend the book to all lovers of Nature, but wish that the whole of Broad-land had been included, in the absence of which the author fails at times to give a correct impression of the status of some of the species of birds. The coloured plates are rather brilliant, but are a pleasant change after a surfeit of photographs.

49. *Pungur on the Migration of the Swallow.*

[Der Herbstzug der Rauchschwalbe in 1898 in Ungarn. By Julius Pungur, with a Preface by Otto Herman, and Notes on the Weather at the Time of Migration by Jacob Hegyfoky. Aquila, xi. (1904), pp. 1–250, 2 maps. (Written in Hungarian and German.)]

Our friends in Hungary are at the present time most active in collecting information on the subject of migration, and now send us a very long and detailed paper on the autumnal movements of the Swallow in 1898, as a complement to the account of its spring-movements previously published. Their methods have already been noticed in 'The Ibis' (1905, p. 634), and recall to our minds those of Mr. Eagle Clarke, who also confined himself to a single species at a time. But the details are worked out with even greater elaboration, and the results attained are depicted on two maps marked in squares (quadrate). The extreme and mean dates are deduced, and "formulæ" given for the separate regions, besides many other details. Great attention is paid to the height of the place of observation, its geographical position and surroundings, while tabulated results are constantly added, and a comparison instituted between the dates of arrival and departure. This is, however, but a rough sketch of a most elaborate piece of work, which must be consulted by every student of the subject for himself.

50. *Reichenow's 'Birds of Africa.'*

[Die Vögel Afrikas, von Anton Reichenow. Dritte Band, zweite Heft. Neudam: J. Neumann, 1905. Price £3 10*s.* net.]

The issue of the second part of the third volume of Reichenow's 'Vögel Afrikas' completes one of the most important ornithological works of the present epoch. The whole work, now brought to a successful conclusion, consists of three handsome volumes in large octavo, of from 600 to 800 pages each. The thirty coloured plates and the maps, when bound separately, make a fourth volume.

In the second half of the third volume the author concludes the Pycnonotidæ, and gives us his account of the Zosteropidæ, Nectariniidæ, Certhiidæ, Paridæ, and Sylviidæ, which are the final Family.

Thus the three volumes together contain an account of 2381 species belonging to the continental Ethiopian Avifauna, Madagascar (quite wisely, as we think) being altogether excluded. The Supplement, which concludes the work, treats of the discoveries made during the last five years while the work has been in progress. It commences with a short history of the principal collections received during that period, and gives a list of the titles of the books and papers in which they have been described. These are upwards of 200 in number, and follow upon the list of more than 1000 authorities on African birds already given in the first volume.

In concluding our notice of the final part of this exhaustive work we venture to offer the author our best congratulations on the great success that has attended his labours. Dr. Reichenow's 'Vögel Afrikas' will long remain the principal authority on the subject to which it refers, and constitutes a firm base on which all future investigators of the large and varied Ethiopian Avifauna will necessarily build their additions.

51. *Report of the Bishop Museum, Honolulu.*

[Occasional Papers of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum of Polynesian Ethnology and Natural History. Vol. ii. No. 3. Director's Report for 1904. Honolulu, 1905. 62 pp.]

Observers in a partially-explored country have much in

their favour, so that we are not surprised to find many facts of the greatest interest in this Report. Following upon information of the progress made by the Bishop Museum and the acquisition of the Henshaw and Menage Collections, we have an article on a collecting-trip to the Waianae Mountains in Oahu made by Messrs. Bryan and Seale during January, February, and March, 1901. Several introduced species, such as *Phasianus torquatus, P. versicolor,* and *Alauda arvensis,* were found to be plentiful, while the nest and egg of *Chasiempis gayi* (differing from Rothschild's description), nests of *Himatione sanguinea* and *Chlorodrepanis chloris,* and the hitherto unknown nest and eggs of *Oreomystis maculata* were secured. Mr. Bryan also describes the nest and eggs of *Heterorhynchus wilsoni* (new to science), of *Chlorodrepanis virens,* and (with considerable doubt) of *Loxioides bailleui,* all from Hawaii; a curious undetermined nest made of the lava-strands called Pele's hair; and the breeding of *Asio accipitrinus sandvicensis.* Lastly, Mr. Wilder writes on American birds observed in the Hawaiian Islands. Illustrations are given of the nests of *Chasiempis gayi, Oreomystis maculata, Chlorodrepanis virens, Heterorhynchus wilsoni,* and that attributed to *Loxioides bailleui.*

52. *Richmond on a new Swiftlet.*

[Description of a new Swiftlet from Mount Kina Balu, Borneo. By Charles W. Richmond. Smiths. Misc. Coll. ii. p. 431 (1905).]

A supposed new species of *Collocalia* is described as *C. dodgei.* The type, in the U.S. National Museum, occurred in a small collection of birds made by Messrs. Goss and Dodge during a recent expedition to Mount Kina Balu, Borneo. It is most nearly allied to *C. linchi,* but is smaller.

53. *Riley on a new Ground-Dove.*

[A new Subspecies of Ground-Dove from Mona Island, Porto Rico. By J. H. Riley. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxix. p. 171 (1905).]

The new subspecies from Mona Island, between S. Domingo and Porto Rico, is named *Columbigallina passerina exigua.* We prefer to call the genus *Chamæpelia,* agreeing with Count Salvadori's dictum on this point (see Cat. B. xxi. p. 472).

54. *Sclater's 'Birds of South Africa.'*

[The Birds of South Africa, commenced by Arthur Stark, M.B.—Vol. IV. Game-birds, Shore-birds, and Sea-birds. By W. L. Sclater, M.A., F.Z.S., Director of the South African Museum, Cape Town. London: R. H. Porter, 1906. 8vo. 546 pp.; 168 illustrations. Price 31*s.* 6*d.* net.]

In 1903 ('Ibis,' 1903, p. 623) we recorded the issue of the third volume of the "Birds" belonging to the new series of Handbooks of the Fauna of South Africa. When Mr. Sclater planned this work he entrusted the preparation of the portion relating to the Birds to the late Dr. Stark (an excellent field-naturalist, well acquainted with South-African Ornithology), who wrote the first volume. Dr. Stark, however, as we know too well, lost his life while attending the sick at the Siege of Ladysmith, and Mr. Sclater was constrained to write the remaining volumes himself, much assisted, however, by Stark's note-books, which were kindly placed at his disposal.

We have now before us the fourth and last volume of the 'Birds of Africa,' for which Mr. Sclater tells us that he is "alone responsible," although he has been able to make occasional use of Stark's field-notes. In this volume is included the account of 251 species of Game-, Shore-, and Water-birds of South Africa, making 814 species in all for the portion of the Continent south of the Zambesi. It must not, of course, be supposed that our knowledge of the Birds of this vast area is by any means thus completed. Many portions of the enormous district treated, which is probably larger than Europe, remain quite unexplored so far as their Bird-life goes. This is evident from the fact that Mr. Sclater has already been obliged to publish a Supplement to the 'Birds of Africa,' as noticed in our last number (see above, p. 206). It will be said, perhaps, that this Supplement might well have been added to the present volume of the work. This is, no doubt, true, but when an author is domiciled six thousand miles from his publisher and printer, it is not always possible to arrange such matters just as one could wish.

The work as it stands, however, will form a most con-

venient basis for future labourers to build upon, and will, no doubt, be very convenient for the energetic votaries of our special branch of Zoology in South Africa, who have, as we know, already established a "South African Ornithologists' Union," in order to bring together those interested in the study of birds in the various parts of the neighbouring Colonies. They have also instituted a new Journal to record the results of their observations. We have no fear, therefore, for the future progress of the study of Birds in this portion of the British Empire.

55. *Scott's Voyage of the 'Discovery.'*

[The Voyage of the 'Discovery.' By Captain Robert F. Scott, C.V.O., R.N. In two volumes. London: Smith Elder & Co., 1905. Price £2 2*s*. net.]

The narrative of the voyage of the National Antarctic Expedition does not, perhaps, come strictly within the category of "Ornithological Publications." But Captain Scott makes so many allusions to birds in his text, and gives us such excellent illustrations of Antarctic bird-life, that we feel bound to mention the work. Besides, in an appendix to the second volume will be found an excellent summary of the knowledge acquired of the Birds of the Ross Sea and Victoria Land, written by Dr. Edward A. Wilson, which clearly necessitates a notice in this Journal.

Amongst the many attractive bird-drawings from Dr. Wilson's facile pencil interspersed in the narrative are "Scrambling for Scraps" and the "Penguins' Road" in the first volume. It is, indeed, wonderful that these "pushing, energetic little birds" should choose to mount the steep and slippery hill-sides to a height of a thousand feet to make their nests. In the second volume the Skuas and their ways are well shown at p. 176. It was known to us that Penguin-flesh was much appreciated in the high latitudes of the South, as affording an abundant supply of succulent meat, but it was quite a new discovery that the "unclean carrion-feeding Skua" might be placed in the same category. In March 1903 the sportsmen of the 'Discovery' shot over five hundred of these birds to be put in store for the

winter, and to form a change for the "regulation-seal." "The legs and wings of the Skua are skinny, but the breast is full and plump." Another luxury for the winter was the egg of the Adelia Penguin. In the second volume are several excellent illustrations of this bird and its nesting-places. The satisfaction felt by the gatherers of their eggs is quite manifest in their faces.

In Dr. Wilson's appendix to the second volume will be found a full summary of the ornithological results arrived at by the Expedition. But as he has in preparation a special volume on the Vertebrates of the Antarctic Lands and Seas, which is nearly ready for publication, we may defer our remarks on this subject to a future occasion. There is no doubt, however, that, as Dr. Wilson himself remarks, the position of the headquarters of the Expedition in 80° S. lat. was, "so far as *Birds* are concerned," too far south. In the pack-ice and during the cruise along the coast of South Victoria Land only twelve species of Birds were met with, and this number, "except for an occasional straggler," was reduced to three in the winter-quarters at Cape Armitage.

56. *Sharpe on the Progress of Ornithology in* 1904.

[Zoological Record, Vol. XLI. 1904. III. Aves. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D. &c. 72 pp. Price 6*s*. 1905.]

We have again the pleasure of calling attention to the early appearance of the "Aves" of the 'Zoological Record' for 1904, and to the easy terms on which this most useful publication may now be obtained.

After a *very* short Preface, in which the progress made in 1904 by Reichenow, Ridgway, Hartert, and Shelley in four of the principal ornithological works in course of publication is mentioned, the Recorder passes to a full list of the titles of the books and papers relating to Ornithology issued during the year. They are 679 in number, the corresponding number in 1903 having been 724 and in 1902 627. We observe that this list includes the names of many slight papers which must be allowed to be of little scientific

value. This, however, we consider to be no defect, as the papers may interest certain classes of readers who keep to the more popular branches of Ornithology, and like to know what is going on.

The "Subject Index" which follows is somewhat concise, but supplies references to the principal Faunistic works, and those on other matters relating to the study of Birds, by giving the author's name and the number of his paper in the "List of Titles." This we consider to be a much better plan than that of reprinting the whole title, which is the mode adopted in the International Catalogue *.

Lastly comes the Systematic Index—the most important part of the work,—in which the Orders and Families are taken from the lowest forms to the highest according to Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's arrangement, and the additions made to our knowledge of each of them during the year 1904 are succinctly stated. This is a great help to the working ornithologist, who by its use is enabled to ascertain at a glance whether any information has been added to the special subject of his studies during the year 1904. To make it still more perfect, however, an alphabetical index to the newly described species should be appended. This would occupy but few pages of print, and would, in our opinion, greatly increase the usefulness of the 'Record' to the working Naturalist.

57. *Stejneger on the Dippers and their Distribution.*

[The Birds of the Genus *Cinclus* and their Geographical Distribution. By Leonhard Stejneger. Smiths. Miscell. Coll. ii. p. 481 (1905).]

This is a somewhat rambling essay upon the Dippers and their distribution, but, like all Dr. Stejneger's writings, is worthy of careful perusal, and contains some interesting information. The author recants his former *dictum* that "the Neotropical forms" of *Cinclus* "are most like the ancestral stock," and now gives the Asiatic *C. asiaticus* and *C. pallasi* preference in this particular. The young of these species are "typically turdine" and "startlingly like overgrown fledgelings of *Sialia*," which, although confined to

* See 'The Ibis,' 1904, p. 650.

the Nearctic Region, has "strictly Turdine and Saxicoline affinities."

The various forms of *Cinclus* "now recognised by ornithologists" are catalogued in a footnote as 31 in number. It would seem that Latham's specific term *gularis* (1801) is the oldest name for the British form (until our "advanced ornithologists" have hunted out an earlier one!) and that Olphe-Gailliard in 1890 called it *europæus* (Contr. Faune Orn. Eur. Occident. fasc. xxx. p. 12), so that v. Tschusi's tender care in providing our British Dipper with a new subspecific name (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1902, p. 353) was quite thrown away. We agree, however, with Dr. Stejneger that the distribution of the *Cincli* is a most attractive subject of study, but cannot be successfully undertaken with the inadequate material at present at our disposal.

58. *Whitaker on the Birds of Tunisia.*

[The Birds of Tunisia, being a History of the Birds found in the Regency of Tunis. By J. I. S. Whitaker, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., &c. Two vols. 8vo. London: R. H. Porter, 1905. Price £3 3*s.* net.]

The "Cis-atlantean Subregion," as it has been appropriately called, is conveniently close to Southern Europe, and has been, for many years, a favourite resort of ornithologists who do not entirely restrict themselves to the Birds of the country in which they dwell. Numerous memoirs and papers have been published on the results of their researches, but they are scattered throughout various periodicals and, with the exception of the late Col. Irby's 'Ornithology of the Straits of Gibraltar,' there is no separate work available for general information on the subject.

It was therefore with great pleasure that we heard some time ago that Mr. J. I. S. Whitaker was preparing an account of the Birds of Tunisia, and it was with still greater pleasure that we lately received the two handsome volumes that contain the results of his labours. Tunisia is conveniently near to the author's residence at Palermo, and, as many of us know, has been a happy hunting-ground for

Mr. Whitaker during many years. No one could be found more capable of preparing an account of its ornithological treasures, and no one has had such good opportunities of examining them. Moreover, Tunis is, in fact, merely a bit of Algeria under a different government. There is no natural boundary between the two countries, and "no such difference between their physical features as to cause a diversity in their Avifaunas." Mr. Whitaker has, therefore, so far extended his subject that the 'Birds of Tunisia' makes an excellent Handbook for those of Algeria also.

In a well-written Introduction our author shews that Tunisia may be divided into four regions—(1) the "Northern," (2) the "Central," (3) the "Semi-desert," and (4) the "Desert,"—and points out their characteristic features at full length. Each of these regions appears to have certain birds peculiar to it, or more abundant in it than in any other of the regions. If we regard the Tunisian Ornis as a whole, the Larks, the Chats, and the Birds-of-Prey seem to be the most fully represented groups. Inclusive of the Owls, the Birds-of-Prey number over 40, many of them being plentiful in certain parts of the Regency.

After various other points of general interest have been discussed, Mr. Whitaker proceeds to the main part of his subject—an account of the birds of Tunisia in systematic order. As regards arrangement and nomenclature he is nearly in accordance with Dresser's 'Birds of Europe' and the 'List of British Birds' of this Union, but he employs trinomials to a limited extent "in the case of local forms or subspecies." We observe, however, that he occasionally uses "tautonyms," *i. e.* the same names for the genus and species—which, we believe, are not to be found in either of the works above quoted.

No less than 355 species (including a few subspecies) are admitted into the Tunisian Avifauna, of which about 150 are resident, 90 are summer visitors, and 90 winter visitors, while the rest are of occasional or accidental occurrence. Of each of these, the necessary synonyms and a short description succeed the name adopted. Full particulars

concerning the distribution, habits, and nesting (written in an easy and agreeable style) follow.

Fourteen excellent coloured plates, executed by Mr. Grönvold, illustrate the rarer and less-known species in the present work, besides which there are pictures of some of the antique monuments and a view of the author's encampment, when on the march through the wilds of Tunisia. Two well-drawn maps, such as should always accompany a zoo-geographical work, are likewise given. The paper and printing of the two volumes leave nothing to be desired, and, in fact, we may say, without fear of contradiction, that the 'Birds of Tunisia' is a work quite "up to date," and does the greatest credit to the author and to every one concerned in it.

XXIV.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

We have received the following letters addressed to "The Editors":—

Sirs,—Looking through the volume of 'The Ibis' for 1898, I recently came across (p. 62) Graf von Berlepsch's article on the remarkable Fringilline bird *Idiopsar brachyurus*, which had then been recently rediscovered by Garlepp. At the time that the article was originally published I was engaged in cataloguing the collection of Birds in the Free Public Museum, Liverpool, and immediately took the opportunity of going over the large Bolivian and Chilian collections made for Lord Derby in the years 1841/46, by the well-known collector Thomas Bridges, which had never been systematically examined. Among them I was so fortunate as to find an unmistakable specimen of the species in question, which, from the date of acquisition, had undoubtedly been obtained by Bridges at some time prior to 1846, in the neighbourhood of La Paz, Bolivia, though the species was not made known to science by Cassin until 1866. The specimen was duly shown to Dr. H. O. Forbes, the